

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Zoning Administrator Kathleen Hayes ; Road Crew Member Scott Ciampi; Fire Chief Will Schwarz; Jim Brimblecombe

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** Memorandum of Understanding with Capital Fire Mutual Aid (CFMAS), new conference room

**Public Comment:** none

**Minutes:** tabled

**Executive Session:** The Board has a legal matter to discuss. Chris moved to make a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Rich seconded. All in favor. Chris moved to enter executive session. Rich seconded. All in favor. The Board returned to open session at 6:00 p.m.

**Huntington Road:** The Town has received a complaint from a homeowner that the town is not sufficiently plowing the road. The road crew has been backing up the road because there is no longer room to turn around, due to the stakes that the homeowner has put up. VLCT has advised the Selectboard that they can hold a public hearing and determine that the road is unsafe to plow, even though it is Class 3. For this year, the town will continue to turn around in their driveway, and will try to get permission from the neighbor for constructing a turnaround.

**Road Crew Vacancy:** Bobbi will advertise the position in the Times Argus.

**Emergency Response:** The Board, Scott, and Will discussed how the public would reach someone from the Town in case of an emergency, the need for emergency shelter, etc. The recommendation is to call 911 for any emergency, and the right people will be notified.

**Village:** Jim Brimblecombe came to the Board to discuss what would happen in the case of an emergency with the Village water system. During the last storm, the Village water system did not have power. The Town of Cabot was willing to let the Village use a PTO generator but the Village would need to borrow a tractor to run it. The Board granted permission for the Village to use the Town's tractor in such an emergency.

**Sugaring:** Jim approached the Board about renewing the lease for sugaring in the Stranahan Town Forest. He explained that the current lease is based on the pricing structure that the State was using at the time. Prices have increased, and he suggests that the new lease should use the most current format that the state is using, because it will be more money for the Town. The Board agreed to renew the lease for 10 years, renewable in 5 years. The Town will contact Forests, Parks and

Recreation for a copy of the State's current pricing format.

**Simulcast System:** Will Schwarz presented a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the new radio system that is being developed. The agreement covers the operation and maintenance of the new system, and commits the town to appropriate funds every year. Will budgeted \$1,800 for the maintenance of the system in 2023. Rich moved to sign the MOU. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Rich moved to appoint Will Schwarz as the delegate to CFMAS, and Tim Morris as the alternate. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Hitching Post:** The Town received a \$500 grant from VTrans to establish a hitching post. The money was transferred to an individual, who did not install the post. He has asked permission to donate the remaining funds to Community Action. Rich moved to allow him to donate the funds, as long as we first receive authorization from VTrans. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Conservation Commission:** The Commission requested permission to donate the balance in their budget to the library. The Board did not approve, because the budget allocation is permission to spend the money if it is needed, and if it is not needed, it is part of the surplus that is used to lower taxes the following year.

**Budget:** The Board discussed the budget. The projected increase in taxes is going to be close to 12%. The Board discussed having additional funds for recreation, but decided that they did not want to increase taxes further.

**Meetings:** The Board will meet Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> in addition to the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Tax Anticipation Note:** Rich moved to execute a tax anticipation note in the amount of \$438,000 from Community National Bank, at an interest rate of 2.89%, to be deposited at a rate of 3.19%, and to deposit the designated funds with Community Bank at a rate of 3.25%. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the January 3, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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